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DEPT FOR G/TIP AND EAP/CM
NSC FOR DENNIS WILDER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/18/2032
TAGS: [KCRM](#) [SMIG](#) [SOCI](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [HK](#) [CH](#) [MC](#) [MG](#)
SUBJECT: MACAU WOMEN'S COMMISSION SEEKS TO ANSWER THE CALL
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

REF: HONG KONG 02360

Classified By: E/P Chief Laurent Charbonnet. Reasons: 1.4 (b, d).

¶1. (SBU) Macau Chief Executive Edmund Ho chaired a meeting of the Consultative Commission on Women's Affairs (CCWA) on October 10, wherein the Commission briefed the Chief Executive on recent activities, including its meeting in August to study ways to improve efforts to combat trafficking in persons and raise awareness among Macau's citizens about the dangers and pitfalls related to trafficking. Commission Secretary General Tang Wai-lin on October 10 told the press

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that the Commission sought to address concerns raised by a second consecutive ranking of "Tier 2 Watch List" in the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. (Note: The CCWA is a 25-member body established in Macau in 2005 to promote women's rights and interests. End note.)

¶2. (C) The Commission, which includes representatives from government, private companies, legal and social organizations, submitted to Chief Executive Ho its recommendations on how to combat human trafficking in Macau. In particular, the Commission agreed to conduct a study of women's issues in Macau and set up a webpage on women's affairs in 2008. Sister Juliana Devoy, Director of the Good Shepherd Sisters' women's shelter in Macau and a member of the Commission, told poloff that a small group of Commission members would specifically study trafficking victims' rehabilitation and treatment. (Note: The Commission small group is awaiting Sr. Juliana's return from medical treatment, given that she is a vocal member on trafficking issues and a strong victims' advocate.) Sr. Juliana also said that Secretary for Administration and Justice Florinda Chan (the second-ranking official in the Macau government) recently called her to discuss trafficking and victims' issues, and asked her for a report on the April 2007 Vital Voices summit on human trafficking held in Hong Kong, and for a copy of the MTV "End Exploitation and Trafficking" ("EXIT") video.

¶3. (C) Comment: As an advisory body to the government, as well as a vehicle for outreach to the community on women's affairs, the Commission has helped bridge the gap between CE Ho and Macau's evolving society on women's issues. It also can spur the government's implementation of anti-TIP measures. While the Chief Executive has always been the titular head of the CCWA, he usually delegates presiding over meetings to Secretary Chan. We are encouraged that the Chief Executive -- after repeated conversations with the Consul General on trafficking -- has so publicly lent the weight of his office to the Commission's efforts to combat trafficking

and improve conditions for women in Macau. End comment.
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